

breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 22

TITLE

THE CASE FOR CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING SURVEILLANCE IN THE NATIONAL EPHT NETWORK

TRACK

Network Content

OBJECTIVES

Learning objective: to understand the strengths and limitations of existing data sources used to develop a new statewide surveillance system for carbon monoxide poisonings; to understand the major efforts undertaken by a National Workgroup toward establishing a nationally consistent surveillance system for CO poisoning.

SUMMARY

Although carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is one of the most common cause of unintentional poisoning in the US resulting in an estimated 15,200 persons seeking medical attention annually in an emergency department (ED) or miss at least 1 day of work, it can also be viewed as an emerging disease. CO poisoning is increasingly becoming recognized as a cause for disaster related morbidity and mortality. New sources of CO poisoning continue to be identified (e.g., boat related). There is increasing evidence that between 10-40% of CO poisoning survivors may have persistent neurological injury, representing a previously unrecognized sequela of the acute poisoning. Surveillance is conducted for most health conditions for which there are evidence-based prevention strategies; this is not, by and large, the case for CO poisoning. Surveillance systems would be invaluable in the planning and evaluating of prevention programs. Maine developed and conducted statewide surveillance using hospitalization, emergency department/outpatient visits, mortality, and a state BRFSS module. Overall, age, and sex-specific rates were estimated. More cases were seen in fall/winter. Nearly a quarter of cases were identified as occupationally related. We described exposure source/setting and compared cases related to a natural disaster with other cases; more disaster-related cases were older; female; and residential. Less than a third of Maine households were found to have a CO detector. The National Workgroup on Carbon Monoxide Surveillance (NWCOS) was formed in April 2005, because of interest among several EPHT grantees in CO poisoning as an EPHT content area. The NWCOS is a model for EPHT content-specific workgroups because: the membership includes both EPHT grantees and non-grantees; the focus is on development of standardized surveillance methods; and it is a forum for information exchange. The goals, membership, operation, and accomplishments of the NWCOS will be discussed.

AUTHOR(S):

Andrew E. Smith, S.M., Sc.D.

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Judith Graber, M.S.

Steven MacDonald, Ph.D., M.P.H., Washington Department of Health;

The National Workgroup on Carbon Monoxide Surveillance.

